

THE GATEWAY

Summer Edition 2001 Number 4

Thursday, 9 August, 2001

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/gateway/>

Mighty mouse could win fight against hepatitis C

Jhenifer Pabillano
Steve Osadetz
NEWS STAFF

A cure for hepatitis C could be found inside a U of A mouse.

Engineered to contain human liver cells, the little mouse provides a way for scientists to study the biology of the hepatitis C virus. Previous efforts to study the virus have been stymied by an inability to cultivate hepatitis C in test tubes or in lab animals.

"We knew the virus only survived in human liver cells and chimpanzee liver cells," said Dr Norman Kneteman, principal investigator of the project. "Chimpanzees are obviously an endangered species, so large-scale research projects on chimpanzees are just not possible. So our goal, because of my background in transplantation and other animal models I've worked with, was to find a way to keep human liver cells alive in another animal."

The hepatitis C virus affects about 250 000 people in Canada.

However, unlike other forms of hepatitis, those infected with hepatitis C may not display obvious signs of sickness, but near 30 per cent of sufferers go on to develop cirrhosis of the liver or liver cell cancer. About 75-80 per cent of those affected simply become carriers of the virus.

As the virus is transferred chiefly through contact with blood, populations most likely to contract the disease are those who have had surgery or blood transfusions, and those with a history of intravenous drug use. In Canada, tainted blood supplies from the Red Cross infected thousands of patients with hepatitis C in the 1980s, resulting in massive settlements paid out from the federal government to almost a third of those affected.

The development of the mouse project came about in 1995, with principal work beginning in the following year. "What got me interested was that more and more of the patients I was seeing for liver transplants had hepatitis C," Kneteman explained.

PLEASE SEE "MOUSE" ON PAGE 3



Marcus Bence / THE GATEWAY

Definitely a highlight of this year's Heritage Festival, the Ethiopian Community Dancers captivated people of all ages.

Universities' funding still low despite record revenues

David Leibl
CUP NATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF

TORONTO (CUP) — Universities raked in a record \$14.9-billion in revenue in 1999/00, but education groups say students are hardly getting a share of the spoils.

Statistics Canada last week reported the three levels of government spent nearly \$1.1-billion more on universities in 1999/00 than the year before.

Despite the increase in revenue, governments are currently only funding universities at levels received years ago.

"Government grants and contracts account for 55 per cent of the total revenues, which is unchanged from levels in 1998/99," said Liam Arbuckle, the national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

Canadian Federation of Students chair Ian Boyko said the recent jump in revenues is misleading.

"A lot of the money, especially from the federal government, is being directed at research only. We haven't seen any sort of marked decline in tuitions over the same period."

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) says the provinces are the worst offenders. The association released a new study on Friday indicating provincial spending on colleges and universities fell 3.2 per cent in 2000/01 over the previous year.

"The latest funding decline

means real per capita expenditures are now about 20 per cent below the levels of 1992/93," the report notes.

"Put another way, to bring provincial spending back to where it was in 1992/93 would require an immediate investment of more than \$2-billion."

The CAUT says funding declines were greatest in Ontario and Alberta, falling 9.0 and 5.6 per cent respectively.

CAUT's associate executive director David Robinson says funding between the provinces is becoming increasingly disproportionate.

"We really see a fracturing of the post-secondary education system. There are much more pronounced provincial variations developing," Robinson said.

According to Statistics Canada, funding to post-secondary institutions varies dramatically from province-to-province. Quebec and Newfoundland provided nearly two-thirds of universities' total revenue in 1999/00, whereas Ontario and Nova Scotia paid less than half.

Tuition fees also continue to rise. Although several provinces have provided tuition freezes in recent years, universities charged students a whopping 18.3 per cent more in ancillary fees in 1999/00 over the previous year. (Ancillary fees are compulsory charges universities levy against students for things like registration, athletic services and endowments.)

Overall, students paid \$256 million more in tuition and related fees in 1999/00.



Today

5 Brendan Procé tries to convince us we can find employment in the real world with an Arts degree (yeah, we're not convinced either).

8 Nardwuar the Human Serviette talks smack. Doot-doodle-oot-doot-doot-do.

Quote for the day

Better to write for yourself and have no public, than to write for the public and have no self.

— Gril Connolly

This day in history

The Olympics are underway in Hitler's Berlin. Jesse Owens, an all-American athlete goes on to win a total of four gold medals and set two new world records. Hitler is infuriated by this and refuses to award the medals to Owens on the grounds that a black person could never outperform Aryans.

1936

Index

News	1-3
Opinion	4-6
Sports	7
Arts & Entertainment	8-10
Classifieds	10
Comics	11
Feature	12

Please recycle this newspaper

Sluggish cola consumption may impact UBC funding

Ai Lin Choo
THE UBYSSY

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The University of British Columbia may lose some of the private funding it receives if students and faculty don't start drinking more Coca-Cola.

According to the terms of a recently revealed exclusivity contract with the soft drink bottler, UBC is required to purchase 33 600 000 cans or bottles of Coke over a 10-year period, ending in 2005.

If the university fails to meet its target consumption, Coke has the right to continue to provide soft drinks on campus exclusively for an additional two years, with no funding for the university during the additional period.

UBC is not currently on schedule to meet its consumption quota.

Steve Clark, Coca-Cola's Western Canada spokesperson, confirmed that UBC's minimum consumption requirements were not being met, but said it was still too early to judge what the situation would look like in a few years.

"We're kind of in the middle of the deal. We're working closely with the university and the [student association] to put a plan into place to achieve the original goals of the agreement," he said.

According to Erfan Kazemi, the president of the university's student association, extending the exclusivity deal with Coke by two years could limit other sources of funding the association receives.

The association would not be able to draw funding from another soft drink bottler if Coke was able to provide beverages exclusively for two years at no charge.

Arts Undergraduate Society representative Rob Nagai said the student association currently depends on the Coke revenue and might have to consider other deals in the future to offset the funding loss when the Coke contract expires.

"The money, once you've got used to it, it's hard to get rid of," he said.

Under the contract with Coke, UBC receives close to \$8.5 million over 10 years. To date, the university has used the funding to improve disability access, student services, the library, and to compensate UBC Food Services and UBC Athletics for the losses they incurred as a result of the exclusivity deal.

The student association receives about 29 per cent of the sponsorship money.

The terms of the contract between the university and Coke had been kept secret until earlier this summer when the BC Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner ruled that UBC and Coca-Cola were obligated to disclose details of their agreement.

The ruling came in response to a court challenge initiated by two student newspapers, the *Ubyssy* and *Capilano Courier*. The papers took legal action to have the agreement made public five years ago after a *Ubyssy* reporter was denied an access to information request.

THE GATEWAY

Summer Edition 2001 Number 4
Thursday, 9 August, 2001

Published since 24 November, 1910
Circulation 10 000
Summer Circulation 3000

Editor-in-Chief

Dave "Master Splinter" Alexander
dave.alexander@su.ualberta.ca 492-5168

Managing Editor

Chris "April O'Neil" Boutet
chris.boutet@su.ualberta.ca 492-2019

News Editors

Jhenifer "Rocksteady" Pabillano
jhenifer.pabillano@su.ualberta.ca 492-7308
Andra "Bebop" Olson
andra.olson@su.ualberta.ca 492-1483

Sports Editor

Collin "Baxter Stockman" Gallant
collin.gallant@su.ualberta.ca 492-5068

Entertainment Editor

Erika "Donatello" Thorkelson
erika.thorkelson@su.ualberta.ca 492-7052

Features Editor

Steve "Shredder" Lillebuen
steve.lillebuen@su.ualberta.ca 492-5178

Photo Editor

Marcus "Casey Jones" Bence
marcus.bence@su.ualberta.ca 492-1482

Production Editor

David "Krang" Zeibin
skip@su.ualberta.ca 492-3423

Circulation Manager

James "Usaki Jimbo" Elford
james.elford@su.ualberta.ca 492-5178



The Gateway is a member of the
Canadian University Press



The Gateway is published by
the University of Alberta Students' Union

For advertising information, contact
Cassandra McLean
2-900 Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, T6G 2J7
(780) 492-4241

The Gateway is a student newspaper serving the University of Alberta. All materials appearing in the Gateway bear copyright of the Gateway and their creators and may not be used without written consent. The University of Alberta Students' Union may hold joint ownership of materials appearing in the Gateway. For clarification of ownership, contact the Editor-in-Chief or the Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life).

Opinions expressed in the pages of the Gateway are expressly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gateway.

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh Computers, Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 3c and Umax Astra 600S flatbed scanners, and a Polaroid Sprint-Scan 35 Plus optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. The Gateway has a hot and bothered Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5000N, which is not used to produce paste-up images of the pages. We are technologically advanced now. Give it to me PDP style. Through Distiller baby. That's the way I like it. The Gateway's games of choice are Dave Dobson's marvelous Snood, and Sid Meier's Civilization II Gold.

Contributors

Rotating "Leonardo" Dog, Yang Wu, Steve "Raphael" Osadetz, Chris "Michaelangelo" Govias, Heather "Slash" Adler, Shaun "Mondo Gecko" Flannigan, Daniel "Wingnut" Kaszor, Philip "Ray Fillet" Head, Geoff "Rat King" Moysa, Adam "Merdude" Houston, Adam "Dreadmon" Rozenhart, Brendan "Leatherhead" Procé, Rudi "Wyrn" Gunther, S*A*R*G*E, Fish Griwkowsky, Bill Benson, the late Michael Jay Winters, Tony "Foot Soldier" Esteves, Mark McIntyre, Sarah Haddow, Karen "Tech-nodrome Scout Vehicle" McQuat and Ed Achtem, your friendly landlord. "The lawnmower's there ... Got the World's coming up and everyone's got to do their part. If you'd just cut the grass on the east side of the house, along the lane, I'd really appreciate it." Thanks for keeping a sharp eye, Ed. If you didn't, I don't know who would ...

Students primed for Canada's top job

Jhenifer Pabillano

NEWS EDITOR

Three U of A students could win \$20 000 for pretending to be the Prime Minister.

Chosen as semi-finalists in the 2001 As Prime Minister Awards, students Alex Taylor, Lino Ramirez, and William Ralston will be on an all-expense paid trip to Toronto from 8 to 12 August to determine the national winner of the contest.

The top prize is \$20 000 and a year-long internship with contest sponsor Magna International Inc, a leading manufacturer of automotive parts.

Entrants were required to submit a 2500 word essay answering the question "If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what political vision would you offer to improve our living standards?"

To be selected, each student needed to come up with practical and realistic solutions. The essays

from the top ten finalists were then to be published in an anthology that would be available in bookstores across Canada.

A Masters student in computer engineering, Ramirez based his solution on his field knowledge. Previously working for a company that allowed him to travel extensively, Ramirez learned management strategies that he applied in his essay.

"If I were Prime Minister, I would create a strong innovation system to keep abreast of the latest scientific developments, by attracting and retaining highly skilled workers."

Ramirez also expressed a desire to implement a cluster economy in order to foster efficiency. A cluster economy is a structure in which competition is the primary focus, but collaboration is encouraged to aid in improving operating conditions and innovation.

Taylor, a fourth-year honours political science student, also used her background to help provide

solutions. "It's a policy-based paper. It had to be concrete, so I said you had to balance fiscal and social policy. Then I talked about environmental protection, electoral reform, and diversification of the economy."

As semi-finalists, all three students received \$500 each. But for Taylor, also a semi-finalist in last year's As Prime Minister Awards, the process was all too familiar. The knowledge of the award procedure tempered her excitement slightly.

"The director of the program makes the phone call to say whether you got it. My name was at the bottom of the list, and I knew when they made decisions so I got really nervous why they hadn't called me yet."

Taylor was also candid about her objectives for the top cash prize. "First of all, I need a laptop, and then it's all going to go towards grad school. My computer is a beast, it's so slow. Learning's hell."

But for Ramirez, a native of



File Photo: Tim Bulger / THE GATEWAY

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

Venezuela and a Deputy Leader for the Knights of Columbus, ambitions for the top prize are primarily charitable.

"Anything I get, 10 per cent will be a donation for St Joseph's College. The rest I'm not quite sure. A down payment for an apartment or house, maybe."

The national winner of the As Prime Minister Awards will be announced in November 2001.

Royal visit puts funds on track for athletes

Iain Ilich

NEWS STAFF

Aspiring young athletes in the province of Alberta are getting a little extra support from the provincial government.

A new yearly track and field scholarship, named in honour of the Earl and Countess of Wessex, has been launched in order to promote the legacy of the Edmonton 2001 World Track and Field Championships.

"The number of scholarships Alberta is able to offer is always growing to reward more students for excellence in an expanding variety of areas," said Dr Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning. "These scholarships are an excellent addition."

Two scholarships, each worth \$3000, will be awarded annually,

to the top male and female athlete graduating high school that year with the intention of pursuing post-secondary studies in the province of Alberta. Winners will be determined by both Athletics Alberta and the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund.

Selection will be based on a combination of athletic ability and excellent academic standing.

"The Eighth IAAF World Championships in Athletics leave a legacy for young Albertans in the pursuit of excellence," noted Gene Zwozdesky, Community Development Minister. "The scholarships are an appropriate way to commemorate this once-in-a-lifetime event."

Potential candidates are being encouraged to apply through their high school counselors, Athletics



Philip Head / THE GATEWAY

Edward and Sophie, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, attended the World's and brought a rather prestigious scholarship along for the ride.

Alberta, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, or by using a form available online. The dead-

line for applications is 1 August. Scholarships will be awarded starting in the fall of 2002.

COUNCIL FORUM

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall. Council meetings are open to all students.

• Students' Union President Chris Samuel told Council of his recent trip to BC on SU business. He spoke to press covering the annual Premier's Conference regarding the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA) stance on the creation of a pan-Canadian accord on post-secondary education.

"This accord is structured similar to the Medicare Act that we have in Canada," said Samuel. "It's asking the federal government to set standards for post-secondary education." CASA wants to see the accord structure acceptable standards, and more importantly, added Samuel, "provide the funds necessary to meet those standards."

• Vice-President (Academic) Amy Salzyn said that the Students' Union has re-entered negotiations with the One-Card office. She said the card could possibly be used with vendors in SUB, but the agree-

ment was in very early stages and updates to council would be provided.

• Business Faculty representative John Watkins disclosed plans for this year's Orientation. The second floor of the Business building will be sodded in October for mini-golf. Watkins added that the organizers were working to have the sod donated by a local company.

• Regarding the upcoming expansion of the VIDS system and a recent Gateway poll showing questionable student support for the expansion, Arts representative Anand Sharma asked Vice-President (Student Life) Jen Wanke about what place student response would have in the VIDS expansion.

Wanke replied that she thought "the fact that the Gateway has a few concerns with VIDS might be a little bit more telling of the editorial than the actual validity of the project."

Sharma then pressed Wanke to answer the original question of how student input will be involved with the implementation of the program.

Wanke replied that "the project is going ahead. The merit and validity of the project will be assessed throughout the year and a final report will be written at the end of the year."

• Vice-President (External) Kory Zwack was asked about the recent Tuition Philosophers Café held on 30 July, but deferred the question to President Samuel. Samuel reported that "we forced ourselves to think outside of the box, to contemplate tuition at a very strategic level, to examine it from a variety of perspectives and to basically show appreciation for those different types of perspectives."

• Wanke and Zwack moved that the Student's Council approve a memo to pursue a membership into

Canadian University Press (CUP), a non-profit national organization of student newspapers.

If approved, council would have agreed to give discretion to the executive committee to determine the details of the pending agreement between U of A and CUP.

Wanke was hesitant to disclose the details of the agreement, saying it was possibly "a closed document." Wanke also added the document detailing the agreement would be read by a lawyer to assess all legal implications.

Discussion regarding the CUP matter took place, and several councillors present did not feel comfortable with their knowledge of the CUP body or a possible agreement.

Gateway Editor-in-Chief Dave Alexander promised an information package would be made available to councillors and the motion was subsequently tabled.

Compiled by Andra Olson

IN YOUR OPINION

How has the World's affected you?



Spencer Rhien
Arts IV

Not at all. It doesn't particularly interest me. I think the festivals are good but I have to work longer hours at the restaurant. It was supposed to be busier but it hasn't changed anything.



Stephanie Ross
Geology IV

Coming in I had no idea what it was about but I figured that I couldn't let it pass. Canada has no idea how big it is. I think it's a good idea [to house athletes in Lister Hall], it'll give them an idea of what our university is like. Hopefully it'll give our Track and Field team a boost. I've been here for four years and I have no idea who's on the team.



Lisa Lunn
Design III

Really, the World's are the furthest thing from my mind. The only thing would be that I've heard there might be transportation conflicts with the Folk Fest. That's a big annual event that's important for me and a lot of others.



Lola O'Brien
Science VII

It is great to see the World's here, but we haven't gone at all. We've gone to the concerts at night, which are really wonderful. I'm mixed though, because the money could be going elsewhere. There are certainly a lot of places where that money could be used; education, poverty, healthcare. I'm really torn about it.

Compiled and
photographed by
Chris Govias

Poverty report has little relevance

Yang Wu
News Staff

According to anti-poverty activists, a recent study by the Fraser Institute distorts the number of poor in Canada, and has little public policy relevance.

Released in July, the "Measuring Poverty in Canada" study claims to be the first in Canada attempting to define and create criteria for classifying the poor. It claims previous indicators of poverty, such as Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Off (LICO) were based on the average percentage of income spent on food and shelter in each province.

"We talk about poverty all the time, our policies are influenced by it, we should know what it is," said Fred McMahon, the Fraser Institute's Social Affairs director.

The study defines poverty as an inability to afford "basic needs," such as basic nutrition, satisfactory housing, modern appliances, adequate clothing, personal hygiene, and healthcare to maintain long-term physical well being. Adjusting for the cost of living by province and examining over 50 cities across the province, the study estimates the cost of living needed to maintain "basic needs" as \$8,900. The study claims LICO figures are relative because they represent income inequality, not poverty, and have no relation to actual costs people need to buy necessities.

"We measure poverty as you and I understand it, by the dictionary definition," McMahon claims.

Using the criteria, the study concludes that the number of people living below the poverty line in Canada is only 8 per cent, much smaller than the 17 per cent projected by LICO and other studies. It has also remained constant since 1981.

Critics, however, see this study as flawed. Dr Janine Brodie, a political science professor at the U of A, claims that the study gives a too narrow definition of poverty, defining only those who are starving and homeless as below the poverty line. Brodie argues that the study also ignores income inequality in Canada. LICO studies, she claims, show an increase in the rich-poor gap in Canada since social welfare cutbacks of the 1980s. They also show that the poor are becoming poorer in terms of income levels. The study, Brodie alleges, also ignores statistics showing that single mothers, immigrants, natives, the disabled and the poorly educated represent the highest percentage of impoverished in Canada. Worst of all, Brodie alleges that the study is pointless.

"What bothers me is that these studies serve little public policy purpose. Defining the number of poor in Canada is a purely academic matter. Studies on poverty should identify the poor groups, the growth of a rich-poor gap, and the causes of poverty."

Mouse can be used to study virus

Researchers hope to develop hepatitis vaccines

"MOUSE" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was well aware we had poor treatments, and almost every patient we transferred was infected with the virus. Animal models was the area I thought we could help in."

[Dean of Medicine] Lorne Tyrrell is also an international expert in viral hepatitis, working extensively in hep B, and he actually developed the current oral treatment for hepatitis B. That collaboration developed and has been very productive.

Researchers began their project with a mouse lacking an immune system to ensure that transferred human cells would not be rejected. But this procedure had been done before and resulted in the human cells dying off after only a few weeks.

But with the U of A team, Dr David Mercer inserted a "transgene" into the mouse that destroyed its liver, providing a conducive environment for human liver cells to replicate and survive. The result was a mouse with a liver that was two-thirds human. When the hepatitis C virus was then introduced, the mouse liver supported it. A way to maintain the virus for study was found.

With the development of the mouse, Kneteman is excited about opportunities to create effective treatments and eventually, a cure for the virus. Although treatments are currently available for hepatitis C, they are effective in only a minority of cases. Said Kneteman, "Unfortunately the genotypes or the subtypes of the virus we have in North America tend to be the subtypes that are least affected by [anti-hepatitis C drugs].

Realistically, probably 20-25 per cent of patients will get a good response to the drugs.

"We've never had a way before to find out what happens early on in an infection: what are the changes? Why does only a minority clear this virus when a majority clears hep B? Hep A virtually everyone clears. We can learn about the biology of this virus and gain new insights as to how it can be most effectively treated."

But with the new discovery, Kneteman and the other researchers still plan to keep things close to where they began. To continue the hepatitis research, they developed their own biotechnology firm called KMTHEpatech Inc. "We had approaches from companies working in the hep C area a year ago, but I've been an Alberta Heritage researcher for all my time at the U of A, and they really do want to see science that develops spinoff companies for job creation in Canada. Often there are great ideas that come out of places like Alberta that get commercialized in California. So we've taken that role. We thought in that we would get opportunities to work with companies. One opportunity will be attracting interest from big drug companies who have a lot of time and energy and money and have excellent people working on these problems."

"The final goal is that we think we have a real opportunity to develop an effective treatment of this virus and potentially a cure," said Kneteman. "We think this virus may be one that, if we get a very active drug, may actually be cured by therapy. The model should be a real model to help develop vaccines in the long term."

The Gateway wants you for newspaper action. Trust me ...



Teach them everything you know!

- Read a book
- Tell a story
- Keep a journal

Help a child learn to read...Change a child's world! It only takes an hour a week to be an In-School Mentor.

Call today!

Big Sisters & Big Brothers

424-8181 www.bsbb.org

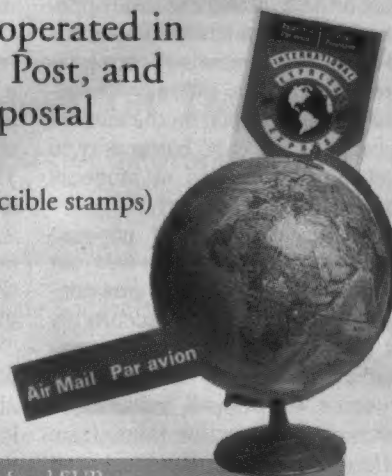
CANADA
POST

POSTES
CANADA

Go Global!

The Postal Outlet is operated in concert with Canada Post, and offers a full range of postal and other services:

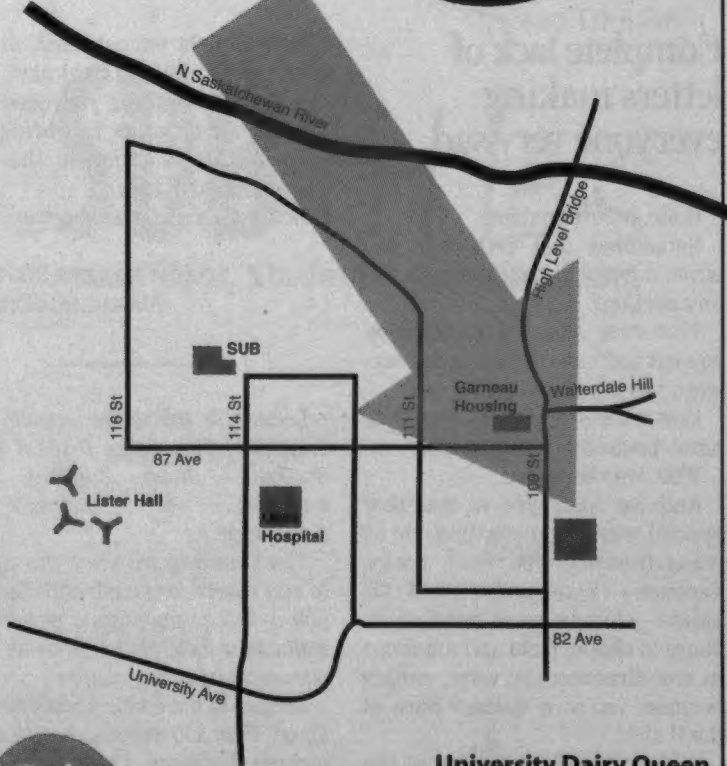
- Stamp sales (regular & collectible stamps)
- Postal box rentals
- Priority and XpressPost
- Postal money orders
- Sending and receiving faxes



026 Lower Level SUB
Monday To Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
492-7716
www.su.ualberta.ca/departments/postaloutlet

meet me at

DQ Dairy Queen



University Dairy Queen
8415 - 109 Street
448-7460

EDITORIAL

'Everything in life has opposition'

At a recent Students' Union Council meeting, one of our most powerful student representatives decided to tune out her constituents (refer to *Council Forum* on page 2 for more details on Students' Council).

At the last Council meeting, Arts representative Anand Sharma asked Jennifer Wanke, SU VP (Student Life), how she was going to respond to opposition voiced by students about the Video Information Display System (VIDS) in the *Gateway*. Her reply was: "I wouldn't say that the articles in the *Gateway* represent an accurate scan of the student population. ... I think the fact that the *Gateway* has a few concerns with VIDS might be a little bit more telling of the editorial than the validity of the project."

For Wanke to suggest that the *Gateway* is trying to misrepresent and mislead students is not only incorrect and insulting, but also irresponsible. Although she would have us believe there is little opposition to VIDS (and stated so at the 24 July Council meeting), the opposite is true. The *Gateway* undertook an opinion poll on the subject because there is no better way to find out the opinion of students than to ask them directly.

For the record, and because Wanke didn't bother to find out before speaking, the poll was conducted as fairly and accurately as possible. The reporter was instructed to seek a variety of students on campus, meaning a relevant cross-section taken from different genders, faculties, and cultural groups that represent the diversity at the U of A. He was also told to ensure that the question was not loaded as to influence the responses. It was simply "How do you feel about VIDS?"

In total, fifteen students were polled. "Streeters" as they are often called, are not meant to provide comprehensive information about an entire population, but rather a

smaller sampling of public opinion.

If the VP Student Life feels that that the coverage was skewed, I invite her (or anyone else for that matter) to come down to the *Gateway* offices and listen to the entire recorded versions of *all* of the interviews. Of the 15 students polled, we obtained a single answer that was in favour of VIDS, and didn't mention that it was from a SU employee.

We made every effort to provide a large variety of answers to the question. We also included a comment that was somewhat critical of the newspaper itself. We could've ran several of the other answers, which varied from "I have seen VIDS in SUB and I have never seen anything useful" to "I think VIDS is a complete waste of money." If anything, our coverage was disproportionately varied.

Perhaps Wanke's comments were directed to the opinion article that ran criticizing VIDS. Like most papers, the *Gateway* has an Opinion section, which is set apart from the other sections, and offers a place for any willing writer to voice their thoughts on a variety of relevant (and irrelevant) issues. The writer was *not* instructed to choose the topic or guided in any way as to what the article should contain. The point is that there was no influence between the different articles written about VIDS.

Wanke later dismissed these opinions, saying, "There is opposition to everything in life." This is generally true, however, what matters is how one deals with this opposition, particularly if they are in a position of power. To make false accusations, ignore the opinion of those you are responsible to, and make uninformed decisions is unacceptable. As students, how can we trust a student leader who ignores us?

Dave Alexander
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NOT ONE SINGLE LETTER

Complete lack of letters making everyone very sad

Hello, fellow students.

Remember that first time you wrote a letter to the *Gateway's* letters section?

That deep sense of satisfaction you felt and have from that day forward never experienced again?

How neat-o it was to see your name printed in a newspaper?

Well, we remember.

And we want you to feel that special way one more time. Or as many times as you want, really. Because—I know you've heard this before—this is *your* newspaper. Yours to shape, mold and influence in any direction you want, simply because you're a student here at the U of A.

Without the participation of the you folks out there, this paper wouldn't even be around today, so pick up your pens (or computers,

if they're light enough) and write what you're thinking right now.

If there's anything you need to get off your chest, or just bring to someone else's attention, this is where you do it, kids.

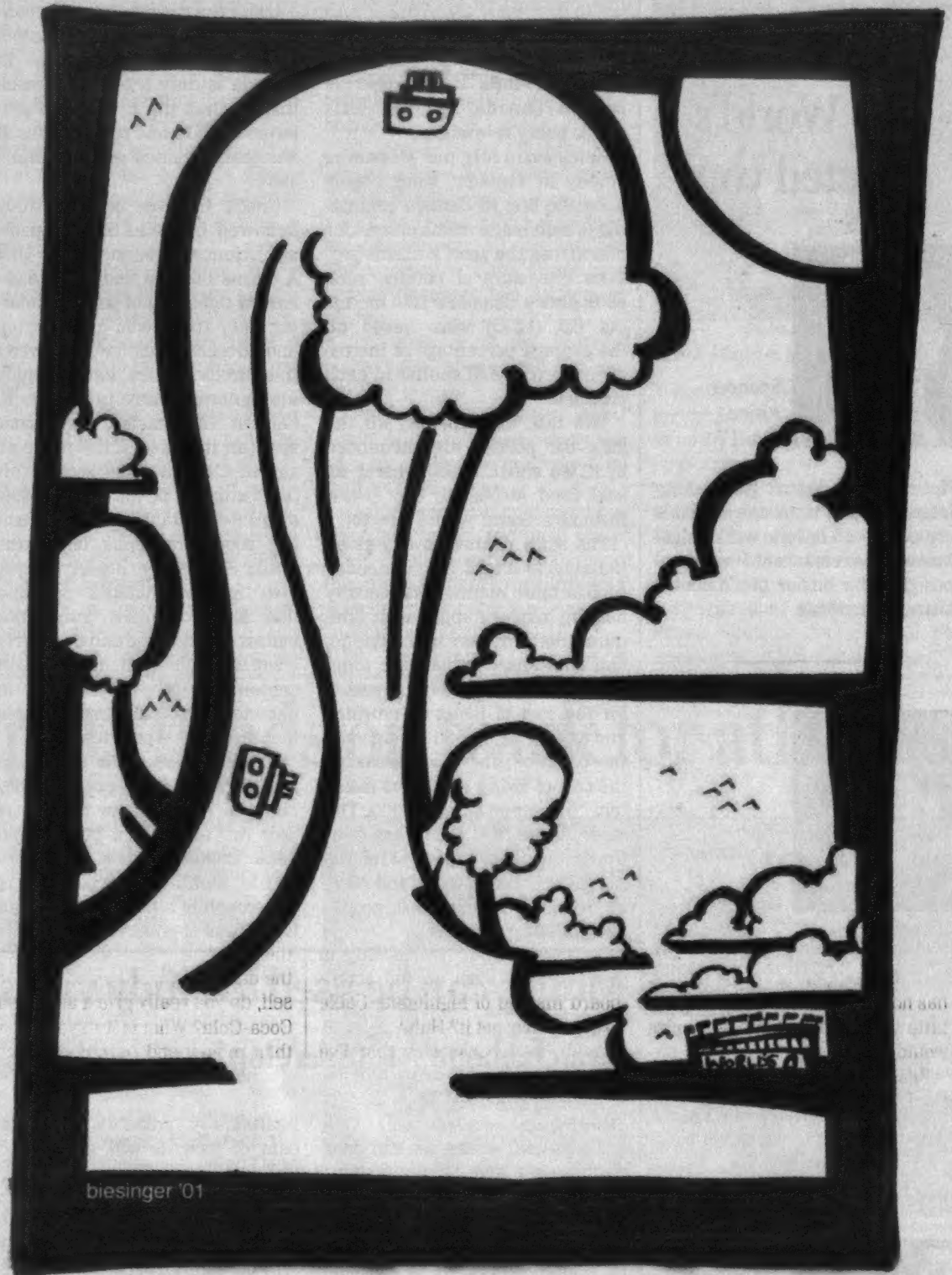
Now let's make a newspaper.

CHRISTOPHER BOUTET
MANAGING EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 0-10 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@su.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of letters it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words in length and include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.



Thanks to lacklustre World's ticket sales, certain tragedy was averted.

THE OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR SUPERPOLL 3000!

If you were to receive an anonymous package containing 56 plastic dolls bearing your likeness with their hair cut down to a few millimeters and their eyes blackened out with a Jiffy Marker, what type of non-alcoholic beverage would you have a sudden craving for?

An astonishing eight people responded to this question. The results of the poll are directly representative of the universe in general. Among the responses were:

"Quik strawberry milk laced with Prozac and Ex-Lax." For providing Mark's favorite answer, you have now won an absurdly large quantity of the above drink, to be later specified.

"I would shit my pants!" I don't believe that's a beverage, but thanks for participating.

"Only the pure refreshing taste of Evian." You are intolerably dull. And apparently dehydrated.

So overall, the answers broke down like this:

- 42% Water
- 28% Milk (and its strawberry variants)
- 14% Shirley Temple (or the less-enjoyed Rob Roy)
- 14% Cyanide
- 0% Blended Cheez Whiz

Mark McIntyre's SuperPoll 3000! is a semi-regular feature that takes interest in you, the reader. All respondents will retain anonymity, so Mark can't find you and eat Doritos and then breathe in your face.

LOG ON TO WWW.UALBERTA.CA/~MMM/POLL.HTML TO PLAY!

THE BURLAP SACK

This week's heavy sack beating is doled out to that whirling dervish of the uninformed, Bill Maher of *Politically Incorrect*.

Drudging the complexities of this crazy modern world, Maher aspires to be a new William F Buckley, but without his vocabulary or any sort of logical pretense. Aside from having all the depth of a cookie sheet, Maher's uninformed pontifications chaff like auditory corduroy.

The new darling of Playboy Magazine has so misinterpreted libertarianism it makes me want cram my Political Science degree in his ear and burn it. How has he been allowed to do this for so long?

You can't blame ABC entirely ... or can you? Remember, this is a network that's crown jewel of news reporting is 20/20's John Stossel's outraged commentary over water-conserving toilets and the government's highway monopoly. Bah!

COLLIN "OLD CRANK" GALLANT

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where, a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten, is ridiculed in print.

Cable would make me happy—but at what cost?



Christopher Boutet

So, in a desperate effort to relieve the cycle of drudgery-interspersed-with-bursts-of-lame that is my life, I've been thinking more and more about getting cable.

I know, I know. "Cable's not the answer to your soul-crushing depression, Chris." "Maybe you need professional help, Chris." "Perhaps you'd be happier if you stopped sending dead gophers to 'Hicks on Six,' Chris." Come on, cut me some slack. Graham Hicks bugs the shit out of me. But that's beside the point, really. I firmly believe that having forty more channels than I do right now could only improve the quality of my "life" forty-fold.

Well, actually, I probably wouldn't watch the Golf Network, the Food Network, the Speech Impediment Network, Much Much More Music, Dog TV, or any of that other crap. So I guess that means I'd only be bettering my current situation about six-fold. Or—to put it into perspective—about as much joy as an "A*L*F" colouring book or an old Operation board game that has no batteries and is missing the little tweezers and all the pieces would bring me.

Really, I don't know why I'm thinking about cable at all—I mean, I've had cable before. I remember when I first moved out, I ordered it with flagrant disregard for the fact that I couldn't afford it, having just come from my parent's house—or The Place Where Money and Food Is, as I like to call it.

Anyhoo, there I was, all "hooked up," if you will, to Videon (although this was before they changed their name, back when the company was still known as Captain Cat Fucker's Unreliable Cable Rip-off), when it suddenly occurred to me that I had no desire whatsoever to watch one more god-damned episode of *All In The Family*.

I firmly believe that having forty more channels than I do right now could only improve the quality of my "life" forty-fold.

That was all that was on. Ever. *All In The freakin' Family*, day or night; invariably, it would be on. That or *Golden Girls*. Sometimes *Cheers*. All of which have one thing in common: they're all really old, boring sitcoms that I wouldn't watch for all the heroin in an Irvine Welsh novel. You know, if I did heroin at all.

As I recall, the major reason I wanted cable was so I could watch hockey at home. You know, to save money by not going to a bar. However, it took me exactly one month to figure out that it would have actually been cheaper for me to plate myself in solid gold, go to every single Oilers home game in a private helicopter and have "All Hail the Gold-Plated Guy in Section 236" flash on the scoreboard instead of highlights. Cable is expensive, get it? Huh?

Yeah, so I guess now that I've thought about it for more than five seconds, cable is a dumb idea. I suppose that at this point in my life even the presence of such pointed barbs as "Meathead" and the ever-racist witticisms of Carol O'Connor could do wonders for me. Or maybe I should just mail more dead things to Graham Hicks.

Save your immortal soul: get an Arts degree



Brendan Procé

As an Arts major whose interests lie in one of the more useless areas of faculty, my anxiety over what sort of career I'll end up with is not muted. I peruse the Careers section of the *Edmonton Journal* whenever I see it, and often read through the article that opens the section.

Just the other day the opening rant featured the lamentations of employers who couldn't figure out why they were losing so many employees.

The article was dull, but the findings were that a lot of people are unsatisfied with their jobs, for more reasons that you could shake a graphite pole at. And this, really, should come as no surprise. Millions of people are pouring long days, endless nights and even weekends into their careers so that they can make their company more successful.

But does anybody really care?

Imagine you're the CEO of Coca-Cola. You've helped to build a world empire that sells a product which has managed to weave itself into most cultures and virtually become the basis for others. At the end of the day though, at home, by yourself, do you really give a shit about Coca-Cola? What is it to you, other than money and power? Nothing; it's nothing at all. I'll bet you're even sipping a Pepsi.

The upper management of any company are certainly more laid back about their product than the boss. After all, it's not their company. As we climb down the power ladder we begin to find the more common, middle-rung folks: the

accountants, the marketing team, the distribution reps. These people could be doing what they do for this company for any other company at all. They may have chosen Coke for example, though, because they liked the interviewer or because the office they get to work in is well lit or something else as meaningless as that.

At the end of the day, they all hate their jobs just as much as anyone in corporate North America. And they probably don't even drink cola beverages anymore.

The point is that there's no point. People are working for anyone they can for no particular reason, and even the heads of companies probably don't care about what it is that they're selling. It begs the question, isn't there a better way to live?

The point is that there's no point. People are working for anyone they can for no particular reason, and even the heads of companies probably don't care about what it is that they're selling. It begs the question, isn't there a better way to live?

A lucky few pursue careers that

they enjoy for reasons other than dental benefits and corporate vision. Teachers, academics, musicians, writers, visual artists and dancers are a few, but often these positions (teaching aside) are hard to make a living at because there is an excess of talent and an insufficient demand for the service.

The other 98 per cent of career-seekers are stuck with the leftovers: corporate careers that require no skill or dedication from the "cogs" who decide that their lives are best spent working jobs that they don't really like for companies that they don't really believe in.

Admittedly, there isn't an obvious solution to this, and I can't see the proletariat of the career-seeking collective joining arms anytime soon to overthrow...to overthrow what? After all, they aren't really being oppressed.

The solution—if one exists—must stem from a much deeper revolution that would transform the popular notion of what it is to be successful and to have a good life.

But until that happens, kick back and play some solitaire. The path of your careers will be straightforward and eventless, and frankly you should think yourself lucky if somehow you derail and find yourself a premature end.

Dave Alexander's **TOP TEN** Rejected mascots for the World's

- 10 The Raging Alberta Redneck
- 9 Jabby Javelin
- 8 Co-co the Corporate Sponsorship Monkey
- 7 Starter the Pistol
- 6 Admiral Humper: the Athletic Condom
- 5 Looter & Rioter: The Edmonton Rowdies
- 4 Pokey the Anabolic Porcupine
- 3 Cletus the Cleat
- 2 Constable Clubby Mc Strongarm
- 1 Mayor Flabby Fat-Cat

We Welcome TheWorld

With a wide selection of imported and domestic draft and bottled beers, we are your home away from home!

Whether relaxing on our patio, shooting a game of pool or checking out our nightly entertainment, the PowerPlant is the place to be on campus!

The PowerPlant is located on the University of Alberta Campus - 5 Minutes from Athlete's Village



Welcome to IAAF World Champion Athletes

Buy, Sell or Consign Texts

Buy or Consign
CDs and CD-ROM

SUBtitles

main floor, Students' Union Building

Custom Screen Printing
and Embroidery

Framing

U of A Clothing



I wallow knee-deep in my own filth



James Elford

It's that time of year again: Time for summer cleaning. Oh, I'm quite aware that it is supposed to be *spring* cleaning, but between my habitual procrastination and my inability to throw out even the most useless and smelly "memorabilia," I am surprised that it gets done at all. Oh wait, it doesn't.

Digging through the layers of stuff in my room is like reading the rings of a tree: you can trace my entire history as it happened. If I wasn't such an abhorrent recuse, undoubtedly there would be respected anthropologists sitting on my bed right now debating what the hell I was thinking of when I bought that walnut with googly eyes on it from the Niagra Falls gift shop.

There would be term papers on what the hell I was trying to say with my grade four project on the Galapagos Islands that focused mainly around a picture of two tortoises humping. "I think he's got serious problems," one academic would say. "No," another would argue, "it might only be a mild case of turtle-perversion." Really, who asked you people?

I don't know why I can't throw things out. I don't use most of my possessions ... hell, I don't even like a lot of my things. But they're

mine, and I think that my pack-rat nature prevents me from taking even the most useless scraps of paper and throwing them in the deep, dark pit of "no-longer-mine."

It must be some kind of survival instinct. Maybe, deep down, I believe that in the post-apocalyptic dystopia that is our future, when the economy collapses and every day is a struggle for survival and gasoline, I will be able to use my collection of crap in whatever barter-based economy springs up. But seriously, who would trade an ounce of rat meat for that pile of old doodles from junior high?

There is no logical reason for making my room too messy to properly maneuver in. It must be genetic, which would explain the general state of my parent's house. The basement is a Victorian hedge-maze of boxes, with narrow paths allowing one to delve deeply into my family's forgotten past. Why would my dad keep his old, broken bong around? Memories.

The only problem is that my dad is getting pretty old and consequently he has accumulated a lot of memories. Maybe, if we're lucky, he'll be diagnosed with Alzheimer's soon and we can make room for more of my old broken bongs. I mean, memories.

The other end of this rainbow of consumerism would be my aunt and uncle, who have a possession turnover rate that would make David Suzuki implode out of sheer terror (or at least make his hair a bit bigger). When most people get a new haircut for a change, they get a new living room.

Still, I have even "benefited" from

this habit of theirs in that I've been on the receiving end of many of their irrational unloadings. I think they have even tried to pass one of these occasional downloads as a birthday present ("Wow. Used Stephen King books... awesome. You hate me right?").

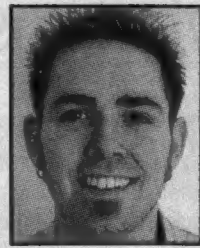
In the end, I think I need help to overcome my problem. I don't think I am strong enough to go against my very nature and overcome this need to hoard crap. This is why I am turning to you: the readers.

Here are some of the items I am giving away:

- 1) **One Mickey Mouse shirt:** lame, but never worn
- 2) **A really old copy of Electronic Games Monthly Magazine:** tattered
- 3) **Old bottles of Québécois Beer:** empty
- 4) **My copy of Stephen King's The Dark Half:** lame, and tattered
- 5) **An original work of pencil art by me:** randomly chosen from my illustrious grade six collection

To win this contest (and subsequently one of the prizes) all you need to do is write me at junk-bot@powersurfr.com and tell me about stuff you want to throw out. Maybe we can exchange this "stuff" and thereby help each other make a little more room in our lives. Although I haven't quite figured out how trading junk will make less junk yet...hmm. Maybe I'm just in need of serious professional help.

Royalty a royal pain in the ass



Adam Rozenhart

The Queen Mother, otherwise known as the wealthiest, oldest, and creepiest woman in England, received a blood transfusion the other day.

Newspaper headlines were quick to point out the fact that this occurred just before her 101st birthday, which is easily the most amazing fact in history. All this fanfare over some old hag's circulatory system. This just in: nobody cares.

Now that "the Games" are in full swing, we've been graced by the presence of two more royal guests: Edward and Sophie, the Earl and Countess of Wessex. For some bizarre reason, people seem to think this is a big deal. Not since "NSYNC was in town has there been so much fuss over something so irrelevant.

The reason that this sort of thing is completely meaningless is because I don't believe we should have any ties to the Royal family whatsoever. What about tradition, you say? What about history? Well you can cram it with walnuts, ugly.

All that our ties to the Royal family do is force us to appoint Lieutenant Governors and Governor Generals to sit in their

offices and sign documents all day on the Queen's behalf. These people collect large salaries and sit in lavish oak offices lined with bookcases full of books that don't even belong to them and that they'll probably never read. Back in England, the Queen sleeps on a pile of money and gets to tell people that she owns Canada.

Some people claim that she is but a figurehead. If so, then what's the point of keeping her around? Granted, I don't think Jean Chretien has the sanity to be named the head of state, but if we were to perhaps elect someone less crazy then maybe it would be a good idea to sent the Queen's sorry ass back to uh... Queensville.

The fact of the matter is that we are technically a self-sufficient country yet we insist on maintaining this tie to England as a matter of diplomacy. We create our own laws, we run our own country, but we still need the Queen's stamp of approval for every new law. It's as though we're too scared to do anything ourselves, and the Royal family is our security blanket.

Now is as good a time as any to rid ourselves of an old, outdated and redundant piece of Canadian history and law. While I don't think that as people the Royals are baby-eating kill-monsters (though let's face it, Prince Phillip is an asshole), I just don't think they have a place in Canadian politics anymore. We aren't a colony, we're our own nation. Let's start acting like it.

Then and only then can we stop caring about the some 101-year-old's successful blood transfusions.

Do your financial obligations seem insurmountable?

The Students' Union Access Fund may be able to help you scale your mountain of money woes!

Did you know...

- Since 1995, the University of Alberta Students' Union has been the proud home of a unique initiative: a student-funded bursary program.
- This program, called the Access Fund, has helped hundreds of students who had nowhere else to turn finish their education through the disbursement of over \$2 million in bursaries.
- As an undergraduate student, you make this program possible through contributions of \$6.45 for the summer term allocated from your Students' Union fees.
- The Access Fund is a last resort bursary program that targets those students with the greatest need who have exhausted all other means of financing their education.

How do I apply?

To apply, pick up an application from the Students' Union receptionist (2-900 SUB) or the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre (2-700 SUB) and book an interview in person with an Access Fund Administrator wherein your application will be reviewed and any other relevant funding options will be discussed.

Summer 2001 pot-out money is now available from SUBtitles. Deadline to pick up is August 22, 2001

Fall 2001 Application Deadlines are:
4:30pm, September 28 & November 9, 2001

Application interviews must be booked before these dates.
No exceptions can be made.

Phone or email the Access Fund Administrator at 492-4241 or accessfund@mail.su.ualberta.ca.
Stop by the Access Fund office at 2-900 SUB.
Visit the Access Fund webpage at www.su.ualberta.ca/accessfund.



Room 2900
Students' Union Building
www.su.ualberta.ca/accessfund



CONCORDIA
University College of Alberta
Continuing Education Division

10537 44 Street, Edmonton AB T6A 1W1

University Courses

Weekend and Evening - Fall Semester 2001

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| ARTH 101 | Survey of Western Art I, Mon/Wed, Wed evenings |
| CDV 300 | Theories of Career Development, Wed evenings |
| CDV 301 | Career Development Resources, Tues evenings |
| CMPT 112 | Structured Programming and Data Structures, Tues/Wed evenings |
| DRA 352 | Fundamentals of Public Speaking, Sat afternoons |
| EDPS 341 | Psychology of Exceptional Children, Thurs evenings |
| ENG 110 | English Literary Forms, Sat afternoons, Semester 1 and 2 |
| ENG 376 | Canadian Prose from 1925, Tues evenings |
| ENG 389 | Classics of Children's Literature, Wed evenings |
| FR 101 | Beginners' French, Sat mornings/Tues evenings |
| HIS 247 | Tropical Africa - Colonization to Independence, Sat mornings |
| HIS 260 | Canadian History 1500-1867, Thurs evenings |
| MAT 113/114 | Elementary Calculus I, Tue/Thurs evenings |
| MUS 255 | Music Theory III, Thurs evenings |
| PSY 105 | Individual and Social Behaviour, Tues evenings |
| PSY 241 | Social Psychology, Thurs evenings |
| REL 253 | New Testament Literature, Sat mornings |
| SOC 224 | Sociology of Deviance and Conformity, Wed evenings |
| SOC 261 | Social Organization, Thurs evenings |
| WRI 300 | Essay Writing, Tues evenings |

Note - Concordia reserves the right to cancel courses due to low enrolments.

Classes at the Highlands Campus
7128 Ada Boulevard

(780) 413-7808

www.concordia.ab.ca



Sports in Brief

The Golden Bears football team starts training camp 17 August in preparation for the upcoming season.

Preseason action will see the Bears take on the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, August 25 at the brand-spanking new Eldon Foote Field.

The first home game of the regular season will be played 8 September against the Regina Rams.

Around Canada West

The University of Calgary has a new Men's hockey coach.

Former Mount Royal College Cougars' head coach Scott Atkinson, has replaced outgoing Tim Bothwell, who joined the Atlanta Thrashers in late June.

The Dinosaurs struggled with ups and downs through most of last season but finished second in CanadaWest before being uncereemoniously swept from the playoffs by the Golden Bears.

Atkinson spent 16 years with the Cougars, splitting that time equally in assistant and head coaching positions. In that time the Cougars won eight Conference and three National College titles.

Bet you didn't know

The Women's Marathon for the IAAF Track and Field will be run 12 August, but the world of long distance running has not always been so kind to women.

In 1967, Katherine Switzer became the first woman to officially run the Boston Marathon—an event which barred women from registering or posting official times.

Registering androgenously as K Switzer, the 20-year-old University of Syracuse student side-stepped a race official who attempted to tear off her number at the starting line.

That day saw some pretty boorish behavior. At one point five male runners physically restrained an unregistered female from crossing the finish line.

Switzer finished the race and, later, went on to win the New York Marathon.

The Boston Marathon allowed women to register officially in 1972; and Switzer became a member of the National Long Distance Running Hall of Fame in 1998.

We stand corrected

The Sports page wishes to apologize sincerely to Pandas soccer coach Kelly Vandergrift for repeatedly misspelling her last name in the section two weeks ago.

Keep watching the skies

Be sure to tune in to the Gateway Sports pages 30 August. For the ninety-first year, the Gateway will bring you all the news that fits from the U of A sporting world and the Canadian varsity scene. Reports, interviews and so much more; Gateway Sports knows the score.

Eldon Foote visits Edmonton, sees the world

Successful alumnus toured track facility which he helped make possible

Andra Olson
News Editor

Returning to Edmonton, Eldon Foote has been able to tour the facility he helped build and participate in the games he helped the city host.

The facility bears his name, Eldon Foote Field, and the games are the IAAF World Track and Field Championships, the biggest in Canadian track history.

Foote's interest in track and field has spanned decades. From participating as a young law student to the competitive medal he won less than ten years ago, sport has always been a major component of the septuagenarian's life.

"I have always had a special fondness for track and field," says Foote, underestimating his own athletic achievements. During his tenure at the University of Alberta, Foote earned school letters in the 100m, 220m and 400m sprint student events.

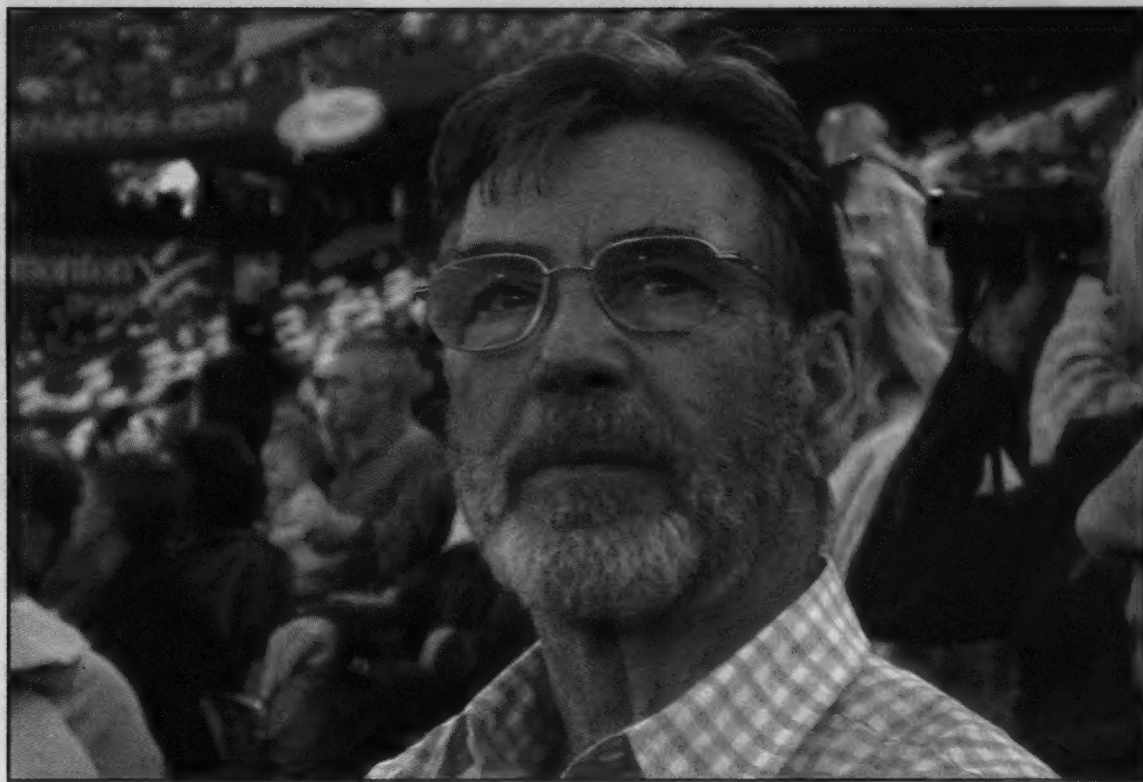
It is a passion that lasted 45 years after his last U of A track meet. In 1994, Foote competed at the Australia Masters Track and Field Meet taking home the 100m silver.

"My trainer told me I would not win first or second because the two top runners for the 100m would be attending the race," recalled Foote. "I said I could win third, and my trainer told me I could if I gave it my life. One of the guys didn't show up and I won second."

Placing second, Foote proved he was one of the top sprinters in the 65 and older category in the world.

"I thought I would continue, but I didn't have the passion to make a life out of [competition]," Foote loved running but had a demanding lifestyle that would not allow him to properly train or attend events.

To stay involved with the sport, Foote looked to other ways to participate. He has sponsored track



Andra Olson / THE GATEWAY

U of A benefactor Eldon Foote watches as the IAAF Track and field championships Wednesday night. Beyond the new track and football facility which bears his name Foote is responsible for countless grants and donations.

and field scholarships at the U of A for the last five years and finds it very rewarding.

The Eldon Foote Track and Field Scholarships are awarded annually to one male and one female attending classes at the U of A. Each athlete is awarded \$2000 per school year (up to \$10 000) on condition they maintain exceptional academic standing and active status on their track team.

Explained Foote, "I wanted to make sure the scholarships rewarded a mixture of the scholastic and athletic aspects."

Foote emphasized his continuing interest in the athletics continuing at the University. He follows the track program and was ecstatic when the men's team won the national championships this year.

Helping fund a facility for Edmonton's hosting of World's

events only made sense to Foote who shrugs-off his effort, saying, "I knew that the World games were coming, and I knew they were building a new facility. I am fortunate I was able to help."

"I am impressed with the facilities [at Foote Field]. The concept is terrific and it is very practical." Foote was impressed with the innovation of designers who allowed for two separate fields to enable increased event/audience participation. Foote also explained that many outdoor fields have a permanent track outlining the playing field in the facility, separating audiences from non-track events.

However, the design of Foote Field's dual playing areas allows the audience of certain events greater access to field level. "In those fields with track the audience is that much further away

from the event, in our facility you are sitting right on top of the field."

Foote was also impressed with the accessibility of the design. "Instead of an elevator you walk up a sloping [walkway]," Foote was pleased the stands are accessible to the disabled. "It is really well planned, money was spent wisely."

While this facility is perhaps the most public of Foote's philanthropic gifts to the U of A, there have been others. In addition to funding cancer research, nursing programs, children's medicine, and drama, Foote funds a lecturing chair jointly held by the faculties of law and business. "You come into the world with nothing, and you should leave the world with nothing," Foote grinned.

U of A has not seen the last of one of its favourite alumnus.

Pandas' Soccer MVP gets shanghaid

Leblanc to represent Canada at World University Games in Beijing

Steve Lillebuen
Features Editor

Erin Leblanc, last season's most valuable player for Pandas soccer, has been chosen to represent Canada at the World University games in Beijing, China.

"It's definitely the opportunity of a lifetime," said Leblanc, a fourth-year Arts student and steadfast backfielder.

"My coach encouraged us to apply, and then I found out I was on the team. It's great news."

The World University Games are the second largest multi-sport competition after the Olympics.

They will attract thousands of the world's top student-athletes, representing more than 140 countries.

This year marks the first time Canada has sent a women's soccer team to the Games since the 1993 Universiade in Buffalo, New York.

This year's team consists of an 18-member all-star squad from CIAU institutions coast to coast. Most of Leblanc's teammates arrive from Eastern schools.

"I haven't met a lot of our teammates yet," Leblanc says, "but if they're as good as the ones I've competed against, I think Canada has a really good chance of winning."

Leblanc will leave for Vancouver on Tuesday, where she'll meet the rest of her teammates and begin their training before they leave for Beijing.

Canada's soccer team will be led by head coach Steve Johnson from the University of Ottawa. Also join-

ing the team will be two assistants, Lisa Unsworth, from St Francis Xavier, and Marc Mounicot, from McGill University.

"I am very pleased with the quality of players we were able to recruit on such short notice," Johnson told the media last week. "We have great speed and some real game-breakers at the striker position."

The CIAU is responsible for organizing Team Canada's entry. Team Canada is expected to include roughly 150 of the nation's best student athletes, in addition to coaches, managers, officials, medical, administrative and media staff.

This last season, Leblanc led the Pandas to a fourth-place finish within the CanadaWest division. The team put on an impressive

display in the play-offs, beating Calgary in the semi-final, only to lose 1-0 in the final to Victoria.

Generally a strong team, the Pandas remain a perennial Can West contender, having previously won nationals in 1996/97. Leblanc played a big part of that success.

Last season was Leblanc's fifth and final year with the Pandas, due to the CIAU's five-year eligibility regulations.

The World University Games in Beijing gives her one last opportunity to play at the highest University level.

"I'm a little nervous since it's my first international competition," she says. "It's my first time overseas as well, but I'm sure we'll definitely have a strong team."

The games will take place from 21 August to 1 September.

Being Ernest is important

THEATRE REVIEW

The Importance of Being Ernest

Directed by Kristof Gillese
Starring Jeremy Burns, Angela Stewart, and Erika Conway
Stanley A Milner
Library Theatre
2pm, 8pm 1-14 August

Phillip Head
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Oscar Wilde's classic play, *The Importance of Being Ernest* is hilariously witty and clever. Comprised of subtle, tongue-in-cheek humour, it is easily one of the funniest productions of this year.

In the play, director/actor Kristof Gillese shows the audience the people behind the punchlines. "I'm trying for something that Oscar Wilde and a lot of his contemporaries would probably have liked to have seen," he noted. "I'm trying to get away from the blind cleverness of it and get to something real underneath. I didn't set out to be different, I set out to do my own thing, and it just happens that my own thing is different."

The story takes place in late eighteenth century England and is a tale of the romantic exploits of the idle rich.

Jack Worthing (Gillese) is a well-to-do young man living in the countryside who invents a younger brother named Ernest as an excuse to make frequent visits to the city and escape his dull responsibilities at home.

The delightfully devious Algernon Montcrieff (Jeremy Burns), a friend of Jack's, uses a similar technique and invents an invalid friend named Bunbury as an excuse to visit the countryside and escape his overbearing aunt, Lady Bracknell.

A great deal of the comedy unintentionally results from the differences in present day society's values and those held by the characters. An example of this is Lady Bracknell praising Ernest for smoking.

The exceptionally strong cast all give impressive and convincing performances. Jeremy Burns and Kristof Gillese both turn out characters with realistic, complex emotions, which succeeds in giving the audience a sense of the men behind the witticisms.

Recent U of A graduate Angela Stewart portrays Gwendolen as an intelligent, strong willed woman who is nonetheless forced to submit to the expectations of her family and society. Erika Conway, as Cecily, wonderfully captures the mixed emotions and behavior of a girl on the verge of adulthood. Also present are some first rate supporting roles by Ian Attewell, Ruby Golding, Karen Helgason, and current U of A student Kevin Cheung. Ruby Golding easily steals every scene in which she appears with her hilarious, over the top portrayal of Lady Bracknell.

New school horror no match for *The Others*

FILM PREVIEW

The Others

Directed by Alejandro Amenábar
Starring Nicole Kidman,
Fionnula Flanagan
and Elaine Cassidy
Starts Friday

Daniel Kaszor
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

This summer has been filled with huge blockbusters that seem to gross obscene amounts on their opening weekends and then fall out of sight when people realize that the films are at best average. In this competitive time of year smaller and slower movies seem to fall by the wayside.

It is in this climate that the horror film *The Others* is released, a movie that is not nearly as big or as fast-paced as the rest of its summer brethren.

The Others is horror in the classic sense. There is no psychotic killer with a knife or CG ghosts flying around from minute one, only a thick creepy of atmosphere.

It is the story of Grace (Nicole Kidman), the mistress of a mansion on the secluded Isle of Jersey, off the coast of England. She lives with her two photosensitive children; they can not be out in the sunlight or they will die. Just after all of Grace's servants leave mysteriously one night, three strangers appear at the door looking for work.



Press Photo

Nicole Kidman deals with supernatural beings that may be more disturbing than her estranged husband.

Soon it is clear that all is not right in the house. Voices come from locked rooms, noises from the storage space, and most dangerous for Grace's children, the drapes on the windows are being mysteriously opened.

The performances in this film fit the chilling mood. Nicole Kidman plays Grace as a harsh, frigid woman who at the same time loves her children dearly. This is revealed to us in a scene where Grace is teaching her them lessons from the bible. Grace is strict, but at the same time the viewer can tell that it's because she is truly concerned, though perhaps unwarrantedly, about her children's

immortal souls.

The very young performers portraying the children act commendably in the difficult roles they were given. In a scene where the children, Anne (Alakina Mann) and Nicholas (James Bentley), are in bed, we can clearly see the two different personalities of the youngsters. Anne starts to hear voices and is clearly defiant and confident, while Nicholas is quite scared.

The film is similar to *Stir of Echoes* and *The Shining* in that it has long periods of setup that culminate in a payoff scene or scare. 29-year old Spanish director Alejandro Amenábar succeeds in wrapping the viewer in a chilling

ambience that enhances the movie's emotional highs. However, this might not be for everyone. If you like a movie where the plot moves forward at a breakneck pace, *The Others* is perhaps not for you.

Unfortunately the ad campaign for the film shows many of the key scenes that are built up with copious amounts of atmosphere. For example, in almost all of the ads and the trailer, a scene where Grace confuses her daughter with an old woman is shown.

If you've seen this already, it loses its impact. Indeed, like most thrillers, the action only strikes a chord if you don't know what will happen next.

Human Serviette wipes punk rock scene clean

MUSIC PREVIEW

The Evaporators

with The Rockin' Mexicans
and The Minimus
Spruce Avenue Hall
Friday, 17 August

Geoff Moysa
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

It's hard to ascribe an occupation to a man like Nardwuar the Human Serviette. He is part celebrity activist, part punk rock singer, independent radio mogul, part and guerilla interview artist, but one thing is certain: the notorious Evaporators singer has chosen a damn weird moniker for himself.

"Nardwuar the Human Serviette is a dumb, stupid name," he exclaims firmly in a voice that is a slightly annoying balance between Jello Biafra, and Jon Lovitz. The name's genealogy, as he explains, can be traced back to the combination of an old Cramps song and the rejection of the American term "napkin."

Most of the interview proceeds in a similar fashion, starting with an animated Nardwuar supplying strange and offbeat information about his punk band, the Evaporators. "Did you know that our guitarist's grade one teacher in England was Topper Heaton's [the Clash] dad?" he asks. "Is that punk



Press Photo

The Evaporators show their Canadian side with toques and hockey jerseys.

or what? We're first-wave punkers by default!"

While some obvious objections can be raised here, The Evaporators can still claim fifteen years experience, outlasting other more conventional bands in the scene. Describing the Evaporators as "history rock," Nardwuar likes to play punk with unusual Canadian overtones and write songs about things like United Empire Loyalists.

Perhaps most notably, however, the Human Serviette is known for his strange pop-icon inter-

views that have been featured on MuchMusic. From browsing the extensive video selection on the nardwuar.com website, subjects range from the sex lives of the cast of *Degrassi* to Mikhail Gorbachev's opinions on pants.

"Hopefully people will look at me and say 'if this guy can go on college radio and get a ton of interviews, get accredited at press conferences and start a band, why can't I?'" Citing dissatisfaction with traditional forms of media, Nardwuar's motives also lie in exposing his audiences to infor-

mation that the mainstream might skip over.

This eccentricity occasionally has its price, however. An interview with disgruntled ex-Skid Row singer Sebastian Bach that turned sour left him minus a toque. "That was my favorite toque," steams Nardwuar. "I bet he thought it stood for the grunge generation and for all the bands that helped destroy Skid Row!"

He continues, "I brought up the fact the drummer from Warrant is now packing video boxes for a living, and he got really upset that I wasn't asking questions about Skid Row. Then he smashed the videotape, threatened to beat me up, and grabbed my toque."

Fortunately for Nardwuar, not all of the people he puts on the spot leave with such a bad taste in their mouths. In July 1999 when he found himself in the hospital with a brain hemorrhage at age 31, the constant stream of mail and visitors was the only thing keeping him sane. Well, as sane as a human serviette can be. "I was so thankful," he says. "If nobody had come by at that time, I think I really would've been fucked."

The best part of the hospital visit? "I got a card from David Lee Roth of Van Halen," he says. "I've never met David Lee Roth, but somehow I got this card." Not bad for a guy with a dumb, stupid name.

Morning Maker overshadows Default

GIG REVIEW

Default

with Morning Maker
The Urban Lounge
1 August

Heather Adler

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

It's always infinitely cool to be able to brag about having seen some disgustingly successful band way back when they played your local pub.

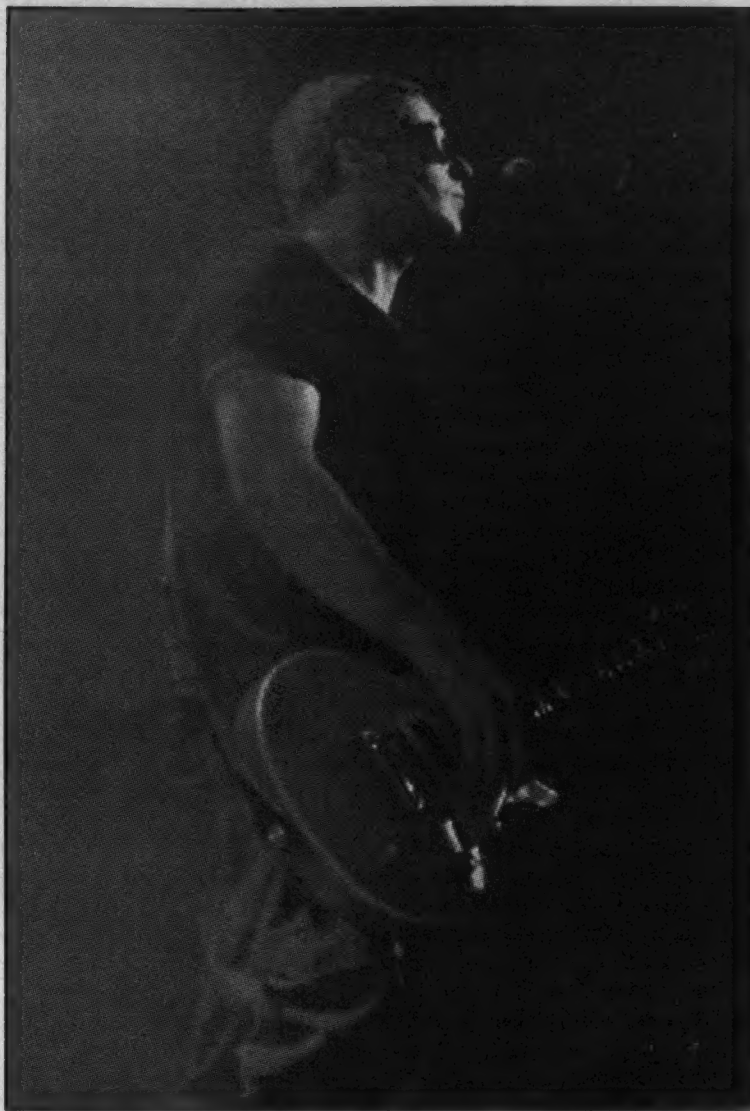
Last week a full house at the Urban Lounge was treated to the sweet sound of rock stars on the rise and the feeling of "I liked them before they were cool" was definitely in the air.

The double bill started off with a stellar set from fresh-faced Vancouverites Morning Maker, whose catchy hooks had the kids up and out of their seats in no time.

A lethal combination of super-energetic vocals from the dangerously engaging lead singer and enticing stadium-sized guitars blended together flawlessly to create an ear-tilting wall of sound.

This isn't the same old tired three chords that have been churning out of the many supposed rock groups who treat guitars as fashion accessories rather than instruments.

Morning Maker's songs were carefully crafted, each with its own unique sound, and delivered with a skill that has been dearly lacking in the scene. Guitarists Greg Whitbeck and Rob Morfitt twisted and bent their quick little fingers



Greg Whitbeck of Morning Maker twists fingers up and down the frets.

up and down the frets weaving a complicated mesh of catchy harmonies.

Swinging from up-tempo crowd pleasers like the title track of their debut EP, *Are You Ready Now*, to stand-out melodic pieces like

"Ferocious" and "Fade Away", the band kept the energy level on high and the feet of happy giggoers tapping. Every member of the band was a pleasure to watch as they bounced about the modestly sized stage. Even the leather-

handed drummer added a little flair as he turned the sticks backwards to milk out those few extra hard-hitting decibels.

With a huge performance to follow, headliners Default took the stage and rocked their way through a lengthy set of tracks that, for the most part, stayed true to the sound du jour. One part leather-clad gritty-voiced lead singer, two parts semi-distorted drop-tuned guitars, and three parts major label push, Default has all the ingredients to sell a lot of records and make even more girls scream.

They sounded like Creed, Stained, Lifehouse, or any rock band with a one-word name that has played North America in the last two years. The formula works though, and with the artistic fingerprints of Nickelback's lead singer Chad Kroeger, (who helped produce Default's debut) smeared all over their four minute snippets of youthful angst, it's a safe bet they'll do well.

On stage the band's sound was tight but they were short on performance value, as they were contented to kick out the songs with little attitude.

Still, it was obvious these two West Coast bands won't be playing small stages much longer. Judging by their great hair, they'll soon be regulars on MuchMusic.

Two years from now you'll be hocking your Pinto to pay Ticketmaster prices to see either of these bands from nosebleed seats in the cheap-bastard section of big city stadiums.

It's just another reason to get out and see the not-so-famous acts while you still can.

Ember less than Swift

STORY TYPE

Ember Swift

with Penelope Swales
The Rev Cabaret
3 August

Steve Osadetz

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Ember Swift's last performance in Edmonton carried all of the idealistic spunk, leftist outrage, and genre-crossing freshness that has characterized her career thus far. At her latest performance, however, a skimpy crowd was disappointed by a half-hearted show, although this wasn't entirely the band's fault.

At her best, Swift is a passionate anti-corporate, punk/folk rocker whose music pushes boundaries of lyrical structure. At her worst, she's self-absorbed, complaining, and musically incoherent. On Friday, the few who came to the performance saw both sides of the artist.

As an independent artist (she owns her own record label called Few'll Ignite Sound), Swift is used to working with her back to the wall. Niche performers like Swift and her band have the difficulty of being heard in a world that gives independent music virtually no radio play and usually overwhelms us with major-label-supported music. This was unfortunately the case on Friday, as the pounding monotony of dance music forced its way from Lush into The Rev to nearly drown Swift out.

In reaction to Lush's interloping backbeat, Michelle Josef, the band's spectacular drummer, beat her instrument as loudly as possible, inadvertently losing Swift's vocals in further cacophony. Her frustration was obvious, resulting in a lackadaisical performance, and her being consistently upstaged by her bandmate.

Lyndell Montgomery, violinist and bass player, was been the musical backbone of the band; she personifies their "hyphenated" style in her mix of punk demeanour and classical musical training. One of the more interesting moments in the show was when she launched into a hardcore-inspired denouncement of the World Track and Field Games as being inherently superfluous. This furious display had what the rest of the performance lacked: passion and outrage.

Swift, on the other hand, seemed like a more docile version of her former self. While guitar and vocals were still technically accomplished, she seemed to lack confidence in her playing and political sentiment. "The Army Song," for example, was one of the most scathing and accusing pieces in last November's performance: it had grit. This time it lacked in freshness and authentic emotion.

At the end of the short concert, Swift's band did one forced encore, as though it was performed out of expectation rather than emotion.

For an independent artist, this mentality is deadly. Performances such as this, while still entertaining, risk pushing Swift's creativity into mere curiosity, and her authentic (if immature) outrage into powerless foot stomping.

Murderer turns over new leaf with gardening

FILM REVIEW

Greenfinger

Directed by Joel Hershman,
Starring Clive Owen, Helen
Mirren, and Natasha Little
Garneau / Princess Theatres
Starts 17 August

Shaun Flannigan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Popular sentiment usually dictates that the best thing to do with convicted criminals is to lock them up behind high walls and throw away the key. After committing a crime that carries a life sentence, most of us would think that said criminals would have slim chance at finding redemption.

Writer/director Joel Hershman's sophomore film, *Greenfingers* (based on a true story), challenges that idea.

The movie stars Clive Owen as Colin Briggs, a convict who through good behavior earns himself a transfer from a maximum security prison to the lower-security Her Majesty's Prison Edgefield. In this new setting he accidentally discovers that he is a very talented gardener.

It's also at Edgefield where Briggs befriends Fergus Wilks (David Kelly), who helps him discover his talent. When a pack of seeds, given as a gift by Wilks, is able to grow despite the inhospitable terrain, Briggs discovers that for the first



Helen Mirren takes a chance on some unlikely green thumbs.

time in fifteen years he is able to do something useful.

Both aiding and complicating things is socialite gardener Georgina Woodhouse (Helen Mirren), who takes an interest in Briggs' talent, and her daughter Primrose (Natasha Little), who becomes the love interest.

Add to the mix Raw and Jimmy (Adam Fogerty and Paterson Joseph respectively), two very stereotypical-looking convicts who are enlisted to help Briggs in his horticultural endeavors. They are humorously out of place in their

new jobs.

With this combination of personalities, the gardeners of HMP Edgefield end up competing at the very prestigious Hampton Court Garden Show, while Briggs deals with the demons that landed him in prison.

The number one reason why this film works is the excellent acting from both the stars and supporting cast. Owen in particular does an outstanding job of conveying the tortured personality of Briggs.

One of the most memorable scenes with Owen involves Briggs'

parole hearing when he describes how for fifteen years after he had committed murder he lost interest in life, and had accepted that he would be spending the rest of his life behind bars. He explains that since he took up gardening, he has loves to create and nurture life.

Veteran actor Mirren does a decent job of portraying the lady of an aristocratic ilk who an audience would normally hate. She earns the respect of the audience by getting the Edgefield gardeners into the Hampton Court competition despite large-scale opposition from the established elite at the British Horticultural Society.

The film's only weakness is its convention plot. As in most lost-souls-find-redemption-films, there's the brooding hero, the old-man mentor figure, the new-found girlfriend, and some off beat friends. The problems they run into, and the solutions to them are predictable.

However, by the time the film ends it doesn't matter that it didn't pull any surprises, or that all the loose ends were tied up. Hershman creates a film where the characters are likeable and the audience wants to see them succeed.

While it might be due more to good acting than good writing that that *Greenfingers* works, there is no doubt that this is one of those feel-good films where the heroes come through and that's the way we want it to go down.

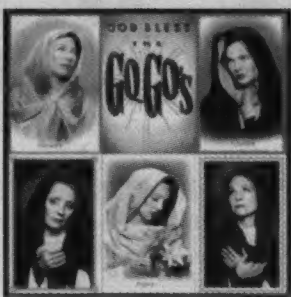


Malefaction
Crush the Dream
G7 Welcoming Committee
www.g7welcomingcommittee.com

Geoff Moysa
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

RRRAAAHHH GROOOGGGHHH YAAARRRRRRGHHHH! This has been a test of the Malefaction Broadcasting System. Had you actually been listening to Malefaction, you would have been aurally assaulted by a perplexing and tuneless 25-minute burst of thrash metal/hardcore on speed. After a few listens through, I am still completely unable to tell any of these short and violent musical emissions apart.

Unyielding guitars chug rapidly, the drumming is furiously spastic, and guttural screams spew forth sounds that may or may not be words. This Winnipeg band has crushed my dreams of melody, variety and coherent songwriting. Music like this is deliberately created to challenge the listener's conventional sense of aesthetic, but this album manages to challenge only my patience. If Dillinger Escape Plan is too "poppy" for you, maybe buying this will satisfy your craving for irrationally heavy music. Until then, go bash your head against a wall and grunt.



The Go-Go's
God Bless The Go-Go's
Beyond Records
www.gogos.com

Alana Pentney
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

To the majority of people reading this, the Go-Go's are the band that's "Got the Beat" on retro 80's night at the Power Plant. This is because the ladies haven't released an album of new material since 1985.

Fortunately, sixteen years later Belinda Carlisle et al have graced us once again with their brand of bubbly surf-pop. *God Bless the Go-Go's* is the new offering from these pioneers of grrrl rock, and the wait was worth it. With help from Billie-Joe Armstrong of Green Day, the first single off of the album, "Unforgiven," is an infectious pop-punk groove punctuated with Carlisle's distinctive voice.

This style continues through most of the disc, with the only low spots being the sappy ballads that remind one a little too much of "I Get Weak." Regardless, *God Bless the Go-Go's* is refreshingly different than the rest of the pop offerings these days, and its carbonated surf-punkiness is too delicious for your ass to stay on the couch. God Bless the Go-Go's, indeed.

CULTURA OBSCURA



DoggieJam Diapers

Dave Alexander
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

I hope like hell that a) dogs are incapable of feeling shame, and b) they aren't planning to take over

the world anytime soon. If either is true than DoggieJam Diapers could cause problems. Read on...

"It can also be used as a device to prevent a male dog from impregnating a female or on a female dog during menstruation. DoggieJams are very stylish and may be worn as clothing or used to keep dogs warm during cold weather... These Hawaiian pants are an excellent device for little puppies which have not been house trained or for older dogs who suffer from incontinence."

They also come in sizes ranging from extra-small to XXXL. But a word of caution: "You should also wipe your animal's genitalia at least once a day with a damp cloth or baby wipe." Just hope to Jesus that your pet doesn't rip your throat in revenge.

SITE UNSEEN



[www.elvispelvis.com/
fullerup.htm](http://www.elvispelvis.com/fullerup.htm)

Adam Houston
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Fuller Up: the Directory of Dead Musicians, is tastefully monikered after a pun on the demise of one

of their subjects. Bobby Fuller of the Bobby Fuller Four had just conquered the pop charts in '66 with their version of "I Fought the Law," when Bobby's battered body was found in a parked car. Death was attributed to asphyxia due to forced inhalation of gasoline.

What it is, aside from not overly sensitive, is an extensive chronicling of dead musicians and how they got that way. Search by name (although a disclaimer apologizes this choice isn't working too well) or by the far more functional "cause of death," which ranges from "Electrocution" and "Russian Roulette" to the ever-popular "Inhalation of Vomit." A nifty site for those days when you don't feel like reading a fan page that could be considered, you know, tactful, but aren't about to go prowling for new "friends" in the chatrooms at b4-4.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad,
call Information
Registries at 492-4212

Employment - Part Time

U of A Students' Union looking for a part-time 'Access Fund Administrator' for approx. 20 hrs/week \$9.11/hr starting at the end of August. Shared position. Responsible for administration of the fund & interviewing bursary applicants. Must have effective communication, org. & time mgmt skills. Familiarity with Mac programs, particularly FileMaker Pro an asset. For a detailed job description, e-mail accessfund@mail.su.ualberta.ca Apply in writing to Box 700 Rm 2-900 SUB, U of A Campus, T6G 2J7 by Aug 17. Include hours you are available to work during the day. Only shortlisted contacted.

Babysitter required. University area. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings, starting in September. Two- and four year-old girls. Excellent wage. Perfect for energetic, enthusiastic and loving education student! Phone Darlene @ 438-6919.

Employment - Temporary

TRAVEL-Teach English: Job Guarantee. 5 day/40 hr (September 26-30) TESOL teacher certification course (or by correspondence). FREE info pack 1-888-270-2941. www.canadialogical.net

Volunteers Wanted

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Help new international students make a bright start! Join the International Centre's Transitions 2001 orientation team. Contact Angela at 492-9929 for information.



ELVIS IS DEAD

You are not
BUT IF HE WEREN'T HE WOULD
COME TO THE AGE MEETING
AT 5:00PM ON THURSDAY, 16 AUGUST
BE LIKE ELVIS

students' UNION

FUN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN Athletics

Frisbee Discuss
Water Balloon Shot Put
Long Jump
BBQ

Don't let The Fun pass you by!

Where: Outside the University LRT Station

When: August 10 & 11, 2001, starting at 12 noon



Your SU Celebrates with The World

A Message from the President...

On behalf of the students at the University of Alberta, welcome to our University and welcome to the City of Edmonton! I hope your stay on campus is both enjoyable and memorable. Without question, we are here to serve, so if there is anything that we can be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Christopher Samuel
President

The Closest Stop on Campus

The Students' Union building houses businesses that can make your stay on campus even more enjoyable. Check out the following businesses for a quick bite, a relaxing evening, or souvenir.

• Empty Pocket & Games Room

Pool, 10 pin miniature bowling, Pinball, and Video Games featuring "Dance, Dance, Revolution".

• The Students' Union Print Centre and Postal Outlet

We offer a wide range of postal and printing services including international couriers and Western Union money transfers.

• SUBtitles

Featuring University of Alberta Crested clothing, pins, pens, key chains, used books and much, much more...

• PowerPlant Bar & Grill

Sporting several bar stations, nightly DJ's, a large games room housing four pool tables and a variety of arcade games, the Plant has something for everyone.

• L'Express

The one stop on campus to get Nutritious & Energy boosting Salads, Sandwiches and Soups. We serve hot homemade breakfasts and lunches, as well as a variety of pastas, healthy enough for World Class Athletes.

• SUB Food Court

The Handicapitalist by The Late Michael Jay Winters



Cigarro and Cerveja by Tony Esteves



Space Cat by Fish Griwkowsky

LA Times — The upcoming film *Star Wars: Episode II*, set for a May 2002 release, now has a name: *Attack of the Clones*. The announcement came from George Lucas' Marin County offices this morning amid a gala of flashbulbs and penile limpness.



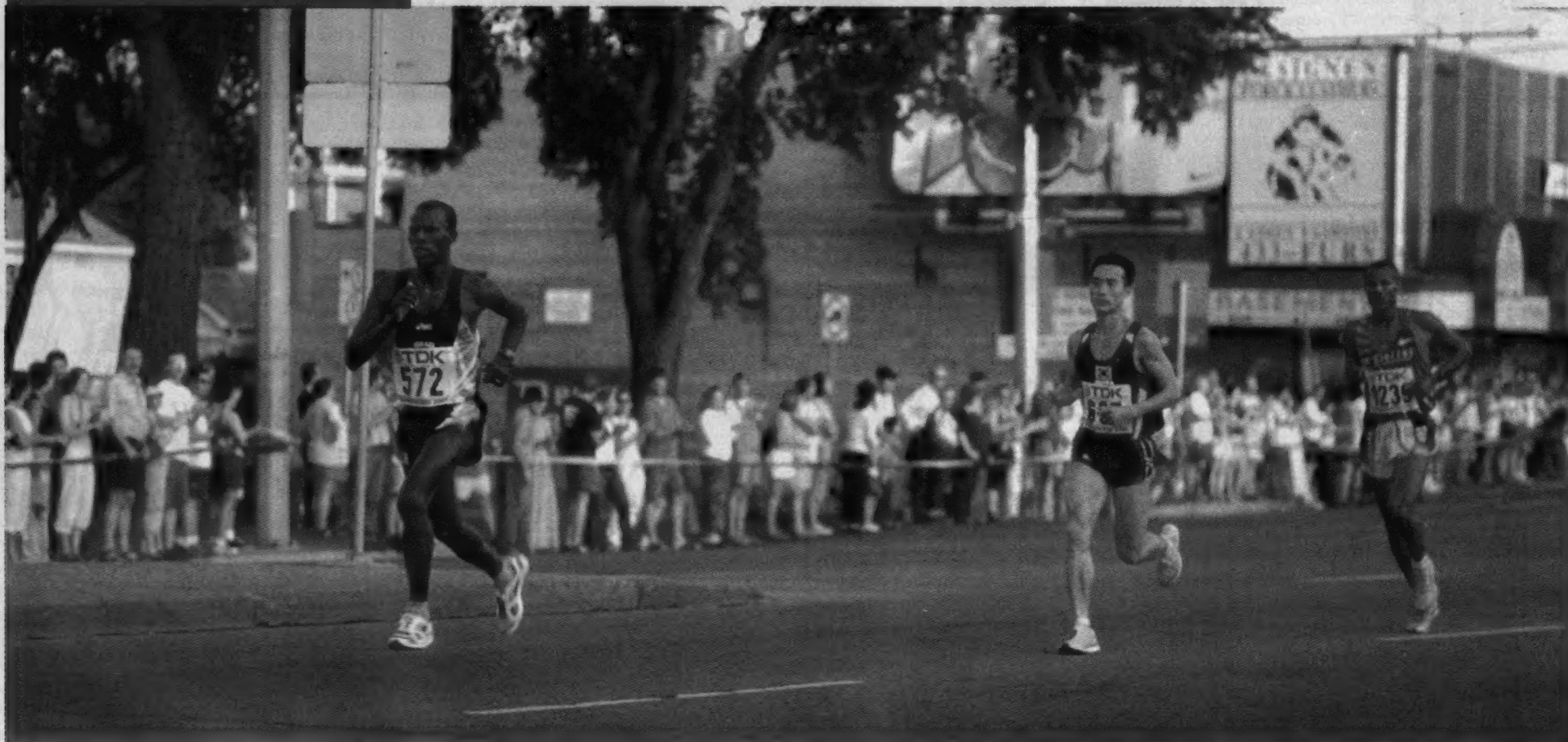
Unclear Happenings by Bill Benson



Deathworld by Rudi "I didn't know there was a summer paper" Gunther



the infamous art of track and field



Track and Field competition was illegal for 800 years, and even today, women are barred from several of the events.

Track and field—also termed as athletics—is the oldest form of organized sport, but suffers from 800 years of lost history.

From 776 BC, athletics dominated early Olympic competition. Boxing and wrestling were added later, followed by discus and javelin. From this, the ancient pentathlon, popularized by Greek mythology, came into existence.

Stories of barefoot marathons and 100-metre sprints in one breath describe the Herculean atmosphere of early Olympic competition. These mythic feats are a long way from today's athletic championships; emphasis is now placed on the decathlon—a ten-event endurance test ranging from the high jump to 1500 metre races. Even with such physical tests, the last 20 years have seen previous records broken on a consistent basis. Yet, it would be excessive to compare the athletes of earlier years with their successors merely by looking at their respective records. Here, the history of athletics is more complex with little emphasis on the actual record-breaking, as is the tendency of modern competition.

According to legend, the Irish Tailteann Games—a variation on current athletics—dates back to the 19th century BC. Unfortunately, it's impossible to know exactly when track and field began: it's difficult to imagine a time when recreation didn't exist, but even more so, it's hard to distinguish where recreation ends and competition begins. These early primitive games are the only glimpse into what might have been the precursor to modern sport.

It is known that the ancient Olympics gave way to gladiator games using slaves. Athletic competition

was stopped in 393 AD because of this, and didn't resurface until the 12th century in England. Here, roughly 800 years passed before athletic competition resumed. But thereafter, athletics were frequently banned by royal decree. It was thought that such activities interfered with archery, which was a vital part of military activity.

The marathon had its beginnings on the

Thousands of athletes have run the marathon, thrown the javelin, and shared in the magic that surrounds track and field competition.

battlefront when a Greek soldier ran from the town of Marathon to Athens in 490 BC to bring the news of a Greek victory over the Persians. The marathon's exact distance of 24.85 miles (40 kilometres) was chosen to duplicate this distance run. The modern distance of 26.2 miles was established at the 1908 Olympic Games in London and represents the distance from the royal castle at Windsor to the Olympic stadium.

"Probably the most important date in the history of modern athletics is that of 5 March, 1864 when teams representing two different universities, Oxford and Cambridge, met for the first time in an athletics match," wrote R L Quercetani, a historian of athletics, in his book *A World History of Track and Field Athletics*. This point in history is cited as the precursor to the modern Olympics, which officially began in 1896 in Athens, Greece.

Since then, thousands of athletes have run the marathon, thrown the javelin, and shared in the

magic that surrounds track and field competition. Unfortunately, most of these athletes have been men since women are still not allowed to compete in the decathlon.

"It was believed that women would do themselves irreparable damage to their procreation ability, so no longer events were held," said John Thresher, president and CEO of Athletics Canada during an interview with the Exploration Network (EXN) of Canada.

During the 1960s, the women's multi-event was the five-event pentathlon consisting of five events. Today, it's a heptathlon of seven events. Currently, officiators are in discussions to finally make the women's multi-event a decathlon. "A couple of Olympics from now, you may see women doing ten events instead of seven," said Thresher.

Modern track and field has changed again due to the intervention of national athletics associations. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) was founded in 1912 and has governed international competition and validated world records since then.

As technology continues to evolve, the means through which athletics are played changes as well. Athletes will continue to compete in the same sports, but technological advances such as faster, synthetic track surfaces, and ultra-lightweight running shoes allow them to raise the bar even further. The shoes may have changed, and the world records broken (yet again), but the spirit that has kept track and field alive still dominates sporting competition to this very day.

Words by Steve Lillebuen
Photo by Sarah Haddow